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INFO RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE 1333
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE 1641
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE 6281
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE 5640
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE 1980
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE 1352
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE 2364
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0920

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 006696

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DEPT FOR ISN, EAP, AND IO

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/10/2016
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [UNSC](#) [KN](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: FRENCH SEEK STRONG UNSC RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREAN
NUCLEAR TEST

REF: A) STATE 168337 B) STATE 169269 C) STATE 169418

Classified By: Acting DCM Thomas J. White, Reason 1.4 B/D

¶1. (C) On October 6 we provided ref A elements for UNSC action to the MFA, meeting separately with the Koreans desk officer Clea Le Cardeur and IO-equivalent action officer Benoit Guidee. Guidee told us on October 10, following receipt of ref C points, that the MFA position was one of "total solidarity with the United States and Japan and other partners" on the need for a stern response to the DPRK nuclear test. Additionally, Guidee revealed that there had been some consternation at the MFA in reaction to Chinese MFA comments to the French in Beijing implicitly rejecting invocation of Chapter VII in a UNSC response, although Guidee mentioned that the Chinese UNSC Delegation in New York had taken a "more conciliatory position."

¶2. (C) After an internal MFA meeting later on October 10 to consolidate views on the crisis, Guidee reconfirmed French alignment with USG and Japanese positions. He said France believes that the UNSC must respond to the DPRK provocation in an exemplary and forceful manner by imposing a battery of sanctions. France remained in favor of an explicit invocation of Chapter VII, he added, though there was uncertainty as to how that issue would play out given PRC hesitation. Guidee admitted MFA discomfort nonetheless with the proposed ban on luxury goods, suggesting the UNSC keep that, like a travel ban on regime leaders, in reserve on the principle that the UNSC "maintain some ammunition." Guidee suggested the MFA also saw value in the PRC argument that a draft resolution allow a possible escape clause for the DPRK to back down. Sanctions, for instance, could be imposed with the usual proviso of an annual UNSC review. The MFA also did not see any harm in the PRC call for an amendment calling for a peaceful and diplomatic resolution of the crisis. In any event, Guidee stressed that France would strive to maintain a united front with the USG and limit objections to P-3 discussions in New York.

¶3. (C) We also shared ref C points on October 10 with MFA Acting Deputy Director for Asia Thierry Berthelot and DAS-equivalent Director for Nonproliferation Philippe Errera. Berthelot in particular took on board our points with respect to the need to move to sanctions and to take other defensive measures on non-proliferation and financing. We noted that public comments on October 9 by FM Douste-Blazy and the MFA spokesperson had spoken of consequences for North

Korea without staking out a French position on sanctions. Berthelot responded that "it was a question of timing," i.e., FM Douste-Blazy and the spokesman had spoken before the UNSC meeting had taken place in New York on the afternoon of October 9. Berthelot said that there should be "no doubts" about French support for sanctions, although France wanted to let discussions develop in New York and remained mindful of the need to reach agreement with China and Russia on forceful UNSC action.

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